

**Mabutas, Maria**

**From:** Francesca Vietor [francesca@igc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:21 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Ed  
**Subject:** Fwd: More on Sludge

fyi

>>>Dear John,  
 >>>  
 >>>I have conducted a small private investigation of the PUC Toxic  
 >>>Sludge situation in San Francisco and found some problems with your  
 >>>reporting, problems that could land you in trouble. Let me cut right  
 >>>to the quick. From what I can find Francesca Vietor, has never  
 >>>"actively promoted" the PUC giveaway of sludge, nor has she ever  
 >>>defended it. If you have hard evidence to the contrary I suggest you  
 >>>produce it quickly or at least have copies ready to produce if you  
 >>>need them. I understand that you have been asked, and have offered  
 >>>to produce the scientific data behind your claims and have not done  
 >>>so. I advise you, as a friend, to follow through on that offer. I  
 >>>also understand that when you spoke to Francesca she told you that  
 >>>that was the first she had heard of the whole matter, and you left  
 >>>that statement out of your report.  
 >>>I suggest you find a way to work it back into your reporting if  
 >>>possible.  
 >>>  
 >>>I am not doing this in defense of Francesca Vietor, who is, I admit,  
 >>>an acquaintance. But as I told you a while back, that it is her  
 >>>husband Mark Hertsgaard who is my friend. And I am not doing this as  
 >>>a favor to him either. I am doing it in defense of good journalism  
 >>>and to protect you from possible litigation. This is not a threat,  
 >>>John, from me, Francesca, Mark or the PUC, just my observation and  
 >>>the the observation of others who have read your reports (and OCA's  
 >>>letter to Alice Waters) and the facts behind the story, that you are  
 >>>treading a thin fine line between truth and libel.  
 >>>  
 >>>Incidentally, I have watched Francesca Vietor at work for almost  
 >>>twenty years. She created and lead the first Mayor's Environmental  
 >>>Department in San Francisco (one of the first of it's kind in the  
 >>>country) and she is BY FAR the greenest commissioner and strongest  
 >>>environmental advocate on the PUC.  
 >>>  
 >>>In short I encourage you to step back, take a closer look at  
 >>>everything you have, and if you can prove your case against Vjetor  
 >>>with strong documentation, fire away, if not I would recant a few of  
 >>>your seemingly undocumented allegations and have Ronnie stop trying  
 >>>to get Francesca fired from the Chez Pannisse Foundation by comparing  
 >>>her to Monsanto. John, that sounds like Tea Party rhetoric.  
 >>>  
 >>>Very Best,  
 >>>  
 >>>Mark  
 >>>  
 >>>

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